preliminary necessary action and released the "Operational Guidelines" to implement the scheme. Before projects are sanctioned under the scheme and funds released, approval of token supplementary in the last batch of supplementary grant is required, as the scheme attracts provision of New Service. Ministry of Finance, however, has approved the proposal in principle.

NWDPRA Scheme in A.P.

2086. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current status of National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas Scheme in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have evaluated the success of the scheme in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas is currently being implemented in 150 watersheds in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have got evaluation studies conducted in respect of Narvagedda watershed, Emboy watershed, Sirpur watershed and Bukkapattanam watershed by Agro Economic Research Centre, Agricultural Finance Corporation and All India Soil and Land Use Survey Organization. The findings of the evaluation studies reveal that yield of major agricultural crops improved significantly by 25% to 200%, run off reduced by upto 25%, soil loss reduced by up to 15% and sediment discharge reduced by up to 20%. The net profit of beneficiary family by growing ground nut crop was assessed to be Rs. 4016 per hectare in Narvagedda watershed.

Availability of genetically improved cotton and rice

2087. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether genetically engineered/improved cotton and rice is likely to be made available to farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Research on development of genetically engineered/improved (i) cotton cultivars for protection against American Bollworm, and (ii) rice cultivars for protection against Yellow Stem Borer is actively being pursued. Results of two years' trials, of three Bt-cotton hybrids (MECH-12, MECH-184 and MECH-162; developed under MONSANTO-Mahyco collaborative effort), conducted under the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Programme of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, have been submitted to the Genetic engineering Approval Committee of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India.

(b) Under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-State Agricultural University set-up, Bt-gene has also been successfully incorporated in cotton cultivars (such as LRA 5166) and rice cultivars (such as IR-64, Pusa Basmati-I and Karnal Local). The issue of availability of these materials from the public sector to the farmers will arise after careful assessment of (i) genetic worthiness of these transformed materials in field testing, (ii) their impact on environment, and (iii) other bio-safety considerations; which also includes clearly laid-out procedures under Govt. of India's Deptt. of Biotechnology (under Union Ministry of Science & Technology) and Union Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Treaty on food security

2088. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) approved a Treaty to protect the variety of world's crops;

(b) whether India also participated in the deliberations of the organization in finalizing this Treaty;

(c) whether many countries have opined that the Treaty may not have any real impact in the war on hunger as the current crop test falls far short of the global food security needs; and

(d) if so, how the Treaty is being viewed by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) An International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was adopted in the 31st Session of